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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1975

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to report to the membership on the results and the activities of the past year, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Denver Botanic Gardens.

It is appropriate to record here changes in the membership of our board of trustees and other significant staff changes during the year. We are most grateful to the following whose terms have expired and who have retired from the board: Mrs. Brown W. Cannon, Mrs. Howard Rea, Mrs. David S. Touff, Mr. John R. Birmingham, Mr. Alfred J. Bromfield, Mr. George M. Canon, Mr. Harley G. Higbie, Jr. and Mr. Ralph J. Becker. We are very appreciative of the efforts they have expended over the years on behalf of Denver Botanic Gardens, and particularly wish to recognize Mr. Harley G. Higbie, Jr. who has served as Vice President and Chairman of the very important Planning Committee for over ten years. We welcome at this same time new members of the board: Mrs. John F. Falkenberg, Mrs. Richard W. Hanselman, Mr. Junius F. Baxter, Mr. Newell Grant, and Mr. William R. Thurston. We look forward to working with them and know that Denver Botanic Gardens will benefit from their interest and service.

Mrs. Edward H. Honnen has been elected an Honorary Life Trustee following 16 years of service as a member of the active board, and we are hopeful that her enthusiastic interest will continue.

We note with sorrow the death on March 15, 1975 of Dr. A. C. Hildreth, Director of Denver Botanic Gardens from July 1959 to October 1966 and Director Emeritus from October 1966 until March 15, 1975. It was under his direction that the Master Plan of the York Street Gardens was accomplished and its development started. His was a most distinguished career in botany and horticulture, and Denver Botanic Gardens was very fortunate in his association with us.

Membership in Denver Botanic Gardens reached a new high during the year and now is close to 3,000 members. This is an increase of 27% over last year and, we are hopeful, indicates growing interest in our program. Membership, or dues income, amounted to $39,608, a 20% increase. This provides vital support for our program in addition to covering the costs of the membership publications, *The Green Thumb* and *The Green Thumb Newsletter*. We are confident that this membership will continue to grow and hope that present members will encourage others to participate.

Attendance, as well, has increased during the year but at a slower rate than was evident before the curtailment of travel by developing energy problems. Turnstiles at the gate, however, clocked 234,334 visitors, which is an increase of 2% over 1974.

Denver Botanic Gardens, as an agency of the City and County of Denver, continued to receive gratifying support from the City and County of Denver for its basic maintenance. The budget last year amounted to $530,400, which represented a 24% increase for the year. We are most grateful to the Mayor and the City Council for this vital support and for the confidence which it indicates in this program.

The operating budget of Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc. was at a new high, $177,000, and represents funds raised privately through dues, gifts, grants, and contributions of affiliated organizations. These supplement City provided operational funds and also, and very importantly, provide the funding for capital improvements which are not a part of the City budget allocation. Two major gifts were received during the year, only partially reflected in the above figure. One was a total of $35,000 contributed by the Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens toward construction and planting of the Hildreth Memorial Garden in the southwest area at York Street and for some initial work at the Chatfield Arboretum. The other was a bequest for unrestricted purposes under the will of the late Miss Anna Emily Bruderlin which will eventually amount to $78,000.

The Development Fund Campaign which opened in 1969 with a goal of $850,000 and the supplemental campaign, known as the “War of the Roses”, with a goal of $100,000, were officially concluded during 1975 with a total of $1,008,000 raised. Unfortunately our fund raising efforts cannot cease as further development and changes in the Master Plan, as well as expanded programs such as that being undertaken at the new Chatfield Arboretum, will always require private contributions. Additional, detailed financial information is provided in another section of this report.

Construction and planting in 1975 showed impressive progress, which it is a pleasure to report. Major construction at the York Street Gardens was virtually completed with the finishing of the West Gatehouse, the Herb Garden Extension, and the beautiful flagstone patio and tile fountain of the Hildreth Garden. Near the latter, the Lilac Garden has been constructed and will be planted in 1976 with funds provided by the O’Fallon Trust. The two major remaining construction projects at York Street are the Rock and Alpine Gardens and the Japanese Garden, both on the west end.

The extension of the Herb Garden mentioned above, which is a project of the Guild of Denver Botanic Gardens, is being accomplished under the design of Jane Silverstein Ries. Walkways, new beds, and an underground sprinkler system have been added. In addition there are a handsome sundial, a memorial to the late Mrs. Persis Owen, and attractive concrete benches, a memorial to Mrs. Frank McLister. Also during the year, the demonstration home garden originally contributed and constructed by Lew Hammer, was renovated by the Garden Club of Denver following a design of Alan Rolfinger and constitutes a fine addition to the south side of the York Street Gardens.

As an indication of the scope of the plantings which took place in the York Street Gardens in 1975, the following statistics are offered, which are expected to be equalled or exceeded in 1976: Rose Garden — 28 varieties, 440 plants; Dahlia Garden — 163 varieties, 329 plants; Hemerocallis Garden — 378 varieties; Iris Garden — 423 varieties; Peony Garden — 22 varieties; chrysanthemums — 29 varieties; water plants — 33 varieties; annuals — 37,000 plants; bulbs — 39,000 planted in the fall for 1976 spring bloom; trees — 175 added for a current total of 375; and shrubs — 1,800 added for a total of 2,950. These numbers indicate the magnitude of the task of planting a botanic garden of only moderate size, such as this, within the space of two or three years. Equal effort must be made in 1976 and undoubtedly in 1977, but it is most gratifying that the planting is going forward following the many years of construction that were necessary to provide the basic services of the gardens.

The Children’s Garden program received new impetus during the year. The program at the Barrett School, 29th Avenue and Jackson Street, conducted in cooperation with the Denver Public Schools, started with 38 young students, whose work was supplemented with a garden project carried out by a number of adults in this northeast Denver area. This program should increase to 150 students in 1976. The program at the York Street Gardens has been named in honor of Ruth Porter Waring, who for years has been a staunch supporter, and expansion was commenced with initial preparation of land to the north of Boettcher Memorial Center which will eventually accommodate 100 young people in more advanced gardening. The existing
Children's Garden area between York and Josephine Streets will be increased by the incorporation of two additional lots on Josephine Street acquired during the year. The Children's Garden program continues to be one of our most important efforts.

The Chatfield Arboretum, a focus of long range attention of Denver Botanic Gardens, showed some heartening progress. The extensive documentation required for the lease of this some 800 acres, on the northwest corner of Chatfield Recreation Area southwest of the City of Denver, was completed and final signing is expected shortly. Some initial clearing and clean-up around the historic old Hildebrand Homestead were accomplished, and the Board met there in July. A start was made on the nursery area, to which 100 woody plants were moved from the York Street Gardens propagation beds. A number of perennials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Experimental Station at Cheyenne also were lined out in a temporary location. Development funds are badly needed for this project, and a development grant to be matched with privately raised funds has been requested from the Colorado Land and Water Fund under the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation program. If received, this should fund the creation of a Master Plan of Development, the moving of an historic schoolhouse which will be used for interpretive purposes, and some planting of the visitor's area.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I wish to express our continued gratitude to the Mayor and City Council, to the Manager of Parks and Recreation and his staff, to our own loyal staff, and to the hundreds of volunteers, all of whom are responsible in a very material way for the progress which is taking place. The thousands of hours of volunteer time contributed by the Associates, the Guild, the Around the Seasons Club, and the Garden Club of Denver are absolutely vital to our program.

The year 1976 should show continued progress in all areas, and we welcome and urge your support toward that end. John C. Mitchell

President

DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
1975

Only when the activities and accomplishments of the year are summarized, as in this report, does one realize how much is going on at Denver Botanic Gardens and how far we have advanced. The Director is proud of the progress made and of the dedicated and diligent people who are responsible for it. He wishes to express his gratitude for the fine cooperation and excellent work of the City and County Officials, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Board of Trustees, the Membership, the Volunteers, and the staff. What follows is a brief report on a very busy year for us all.

Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr.
Director

Construction and Development of Physical Facilities

An important development on the grounds of the York Street Unit in 1975 was the construction of the Hildreth Garden and its surroundings in the southwest sector of the unit. Carrying out the original plan of Eckbo, Dean, Austin and Williams, with some modification, the land was graded, hundreds of square feet of totally new walkways were laid, and large areas of flagstone paving were installed.

The Hildreth Garden, named in honor of Dr. A. C. Hildreth, director of Botanic Gardens from 1959 to 1965, is described as a "Room with a View" and contains a fountain that is unique in both its visual and audio effects.

The fountain is a tile-lined, walled circle enclosing, at its center, a circular well surrounded by two semi-circular pools, the one on the west being the larger of the two. Above the pool on the east is a trough. Using only its own separate recirculating water system, the sound of rushing water is achieved by the unique design of the fountain. Water in the west pool cascades into the center well and into the east pool, then is recirculated into the trough and runs back into the pool through three slots in the wall, cascading again into the center well. Herbert R. Schaal, one of the planners, describes the effect in this way: "As the viewer approaches the fountain from each direction, a separate and deliberate sequence of revealment occurs . . . and at each level of view, an entirely different effect is experienced."

The outer edges of the Hildreth Garden are defined by a long, shielding berm along the south border and a smaller berm at right angles to the first on the west, creating a room effect. Through an opening between mounds, looking to the west from the fountain, the mountains can be seen in the distance. Red sandstone flagstones, in a pattern radiating westerly from the fountain, create a patio area. Soil areas adjacent to the patio will be planted with flowers continuing the pattern.

The West Gatehouse, providing an entrance into the Botanic Gardens from Cheesman Park, was built during the year. Designed by Victor Hornbein, it is a long, low structure of concrete and white stucco nesting beneath the trees along the boundary between the two areas. Walks in the park leading to the gate are of the same design as those leading to the gate on the Botanic Gardens side.
The ornamental iron grill fence surrounding the east part of the garden was completely rehabilitated during the year. New supporting metal posts were welded to the bases of old, corroded ones; sections of the fence were properly welded to each other and to the supporting posts; individual bars of the fence have been straightened, and the fence repainted. The whole east side of the garden is improved in appearance by this renovation.

The operation of Greenhouses 3A, 3B, and 3C was improved by the division of a single vent along the west side of Greenhouse 3 into three vents, each working independently of the others. Large polyethylene tubes installed just below the ridge vents in Greenhouses 1 and 2, connected with powerful blowers, provide a quite even distribution and movement of air in these two houses. New plastic light fixtures have been installed under the plena which run along the north and south sides of the interior of Boettcher Memorial Conservatory to replace older metal fixtures which were rusting.

The shade house on the south side of the greenhouse tunnel was converted into greenhouse use by the application of fiberglass panels to its top and sides, adding 12,000 square feet of space badly needed to grow and over-winter annuals.

Rehabilitation of the Lew Hammer Garden, a demonstration home garden contributed and constructed by Lew Hammer, was done in 1975 by the Garden Club of Denver, following a design of Alan Rollinger. New shrubs were planted and new architectural features such as a Japanese type dry stream bed were added.

Addition of a new section more than doubled the size of the Herb Garden. This is a project of Denver Botanic Gardens Guild and was designed by Jane Silverstein Ries. Additions in 1975 included the erection of handsome stone benches in the extension as a memorial to Mrs. Frank McLister, the installation of an unusual stone sundial as a memorial to the late Mrs. Persis Owen, the construction of walkways and new beds, and the installation of an automatic sprinkler system. Planting of shrubs on the berm separating the Herb Garden from the walkway leading to it from the parking lot was done in the spring, as was the planting of herbs in the beds. A few trees are to be added to the area of the shrub plantings.

In the spring of 1975 the Demonstration Vegetable Garden, an entirely new feature, was laid out and constructed. An area of 2,500 square feet was devoted to the demonstration of how to grow various types of garden vegetables. Railroad ties were used to create a garden on three levels which will provide better control of soil and drainage. It is bordered by a fence on which several varieties of apple and pear are to be grown as espaliers.

Improvements at Botanic Gardens House during the year included new floor covering in the kitchen and adjacent areas and painting the walls of these same rooms. Iron safety railings were installed near the front and back entrances to the house.

During the spring of 1975 the gardening staff planted over 1,200 trees and shrubs. They were placed primarily in the eastern one-third of the Gardens, and included 12 varieties of flowering trees, 6 varieties of shade trees, 27 varieties of shrubs and 28 varieties of evergreens.

Some of the more unusual plants received were: Swiss Stone Pine (Pinus cembra L.), Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick (Corylus avellana L. var. contorta Bean), Hahs American Cranberrybush Viburnum (Viburnum trilobum Hahs), Fragrant Snowball Viburnum (Viburnum carlephasul L.), Red Bud (Cercis canadensis L.), Thompson’s Blue Spruce (Picea pungens Engelm. var. glauca Thompson), and Temple Scotch Pine (Pinus sylvestris L. var. fastigiata Carr.).

The display of annual flowers was much expanded in 1975 when more than 28,000 of them, all raised in Botanic Gardens greenhouses, were set out on the grounds. Among the unusual varieties in the display were: Castor Bean (Ricinus zanzibarinus G.M. Popova), Salpiglossis Ruiz & Pav. ‘Splash’, and Gaillardia Fouger. New in 1975 were pansy ‘Imperial Blue’, zinnia ‘Scarlet Ruffles’, marigold ‘Show Boat’, and petunia ‘Summer Sun’.

A Gladiolus All-America test bed was established in an area adjacent to the Rose Test plots. Denver Botanic Gardens is cooperating with the Gladiolus Society in this endeavor. Potential new varieties of gladiolus will be grown under test conditions. The Society will provide all the test materials on which records will be kept and forwarded to national headquarters in the fall. The Society will also furnish demonstration corms of previous All-America award winners, to be grown in the same garden. Twenty-five varieties of these award winners were received and planted in 1975.

The Dahlia Garden, initiated in 1974, was expanded and improved in 1975. Four plots were enclosed in railroad timbers, two levels in height. Unsatisfactory heavy clay soil was partially removed and mixed with top soil containing organic matter, raising the soil level about 14 inches and providing better drainage. A total of 329 plants, of 163 varieties, was placed in the plots. A hedge of cotoneaster encloses the garden.

The Rose Display Garden was redesigned and replanted during the year. Extensive soil preparation was necessary for the planting of 490 bare root plants of excellent varieties given to Denver Botanic Gardens by Weeks Wholesale Rose Grower of Ontario, California. This brings to completion more than half of the display beds. A total of 132 roses was planted in April in the All-America Rose Selection test garden. They are to be retained for a two year testing program.

The Iris Garden, which includes tall bearded, standard dwarf bearded, intermediate bearded, border bearded, and miniature dwarf bearded iris, continued to grow larger. There were 31 new additions this year, bringing the total number of plants to 312. Twenty-two additions were made to the Siberian iris collection which now has a total of 59 varieties. There are 52 varieties of spuria iris.

Twenty-two new varieties were added to the hemerocallis garden during the year, making a total of 378 different varieties on display.

A new area was selected for the peony garden and twenty-two new varieties were planted. These plants were donated by Klehm Nursery of Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Twenty-nine varieties of chrysanthemums were planted in the fall.

Fourteen new varieties were added to the water plant collection which now has a total of 33 varieties.

The impressive total of nearly 40,000 spring-flowering bulbs was planted at the Gardens in October and November of 1975. Of these, 23,600 bulbs — narcissus, hyacinth, muscari, and tulips — were gifts of the Netherlands Flower-bulb Institute. There were 9,000 hyacinths, 5,000 daffodils, 10,000 tulips (49 different varieties). The
bulk of the tulips and daffodils was planted along the south side of the conservatory. The hyacinths were planted around the flagpole area and along York Street north from the east gateway.

The plantings included another 16,000 tulips and daffodils purchased by the Gardens. Tulips and hyacinths were planted in alternating bands of red, white and blue in recognition of the Bicentennial Year.

Over 600 new plants were added to the conservatory and greenhouse collections in 1975. Included in these were 76 cacti and succulents, 212 orchids, and 16 insectivorous plants. The cacti and succulents were installed in permanent displays at the upper or west end of the conservatory, in both the northwest and southwest corners. These natives of the warm, dry desert regions add an entirely new aspect to the tropical displays. The insectivorous plants were housed in a new glass exhibition case on the balcony in the lobby of the Boettcher Center. This display has been especially popular with visiting school children.

Testing of Plants

A wide range of plants is currently being tested in the propagation area. Some of these show promise; others, doing well now, will need more severe winters before their hardiness will be determined. This activity is one of the primary purposes of the Gardens and will become increasingly important in the future.

As the first Plant Dividend offered by the Botanic Gardens, over 850 plants were distributed to members.

Plant Sale

Again, the annual plant sale in May broke records for attendance and the amount of money taken in. Thousands of visitors filled the Boettcher Center building and sale area to the north and west of it, eagerly selecting their purchases from the hundreds of top-grade plants grown and purchased especially for this sale. Higher costs held the relation of expenditures to profits to the level of other years. Cooperation from growers and suppliers was excellent, and the more than 400 volunteer workers whose efforts made the sale possible did a superb job.

Lobby Court Display

The Lobby Court Display is seen and admired by almost every visitor to the Gardens. The year started with the lovely poinsettias, followed by the vibrant reds of Rieger begonias. In March came Easter lilies, cinerarias, and cymbidium orchids; then the spring bulbs — tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils — interspersed with calceolarias. At Plant Sale time many ferns, bromeliads and others from the Greenhouse collection were on display. Next came the velvety blooms of gloxinias and agin a begonia planting; this time, in addition to Rieger, wax, tuberous and rex were also shown. In August fuchsias and impatients, backed by podocarpus and other green foliage plants, were admired. The fall chrysanthemum display around the pool in the Lobby Court was without doubt the most colorful yet produced by the Gardens. Over 100 varieties, grown in Botanic Gardens greenhouses, were in their glory, showing much diversification in color, size of plant and of bloom, and type of flower such as spider, spoon, exhibition incurve, reflex, pompom, saga, and others. Large hanging baskets, suspended from the ceiling, added a spectacular note to the display. At the end of the year the poinsettias in banked masses, featuring two unique poinsetta trees, returned. Staff members who grew the plants and prepared the displays outdid all previous efforts in 1975.

Children's Garden

The Children’s Garden program at the York Street unit began, in 1975, its 16th year with 126 children (63 beginners and 63 advanced) enrolled. Irene Vitteroe (Mrs. John M.) again served as instructor. Indoor instruction classes were held in April. Outdoor gardening began in early May. A highlight of the summer program was a Garden Fair in August where the children exhibited their best vegetables. Certificates for successfully completing the program were issued to 123 children at the graduation program held in early September.

After several years of planning and effort, a “branch” Children’s Garden was successfully established on the grounds of Barrett School in northeast Denver at 29th and Jackson Streets. Under an agreement with the Board of Education, Denver Public Schools, a strip of land 510 feet long and 65 feet wide which parallels the large playground at that school was converted into a garden known as the Children’s Garden of Walnut Hill. Financed by private donations, the Gardens placed a chain link fence around the whole area, installed a watering system similar to that at the Botanic Gardens Children’s Garden, and erected a small storage shed.

Seeds, plants, and tools, and an instructor (Mrs. Vitteroe) to direct the work were also furnished by the Gardens. A particular effort was made to get parents involved, and the response has been most gratifying. Thirty-eight children from Barrett and Columbine schools, in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades, were enrolled, each of them working in a 10 by 10 foot plot. Another section of the garden is serving as a “community garden,” tended primarily by the parents, the harvest from which will be shared equally by those doing the gardening. Only about half of the total space is being used this year. Our plan is to make it possible for about 125 children (ages 9 to 15) to have individual gardens next year. With the help of qualified parents, working with minimum supervision and advice from the Botanic Garden staff, we are looking forward to assisting the citizens of the area to make this a permanent project and a genuine contribution to community education in horticulture.

The Board of Trustees has authorized the establishment of still another garden for young people at a slightly higher age level than those in its Children’s Garden program. This one is to be located on the lots currently being maintained, but not in active use, at the corner of York Street and 11th Avenue. A private donation was received to help further the new undertaking.
Chatfield Arboretum

All the necessary papers have been signed and the U.S. Corps of Engineers has officially approved a lease to the City of Denver for nearly 750 acres of land in the Chatfield recreational area, on the west side of Highway 75. The lease will run from July 1, 1975 to June 30, 2000. Botanic Gardens will create an arboretum on this land. The Corps of Engineers has completed hard-topping the entrance road to the Deer Creek area and to the parking lot there. Active planning of the arboretum is now proceeding.

Using private funds, Botanic Gardens has provided a mobile home in the Deer Creek area of the arboretum site, occupied by two men (one an employee of the Gardens) to provide security against vandalism and to begin clean-up and restoration work there.

About 25 perennials were transplanted to the arboretum site from the York Street Unit. These were older varieties, moved to make space for newer ones.

Education Program

Each year the botanical and horticultural courses offered at Denver Botanic Gardens become more popular. In 1975 the enrollment for courses was limited and most were over-subscribed soon after their announcement. Members and friends of the Gardens recognized the value of the instruction given by regional experts in all the subjects offered. The titles listed suggest what can be learned here. Members receive quarterly schedules of the educational courses together with a registration form.

Horticulture: Home Landscaping (Mr. Rollinger and Mr. Watson), Hobby Greenhouses (Mr. Briggs), House Plants, three classes (Mr. Hannigan, Mr. Lankhorst, Dr. Zeiner), Annuals (Mr. Park), Vegetable Gardening, two classes (Mr. Hannigan, Mr. Latta), House Plant Clinic (Mr. Lankhorst), Care of Perennials (Mr. Gundell), Pruning (Mr. Park), Cacti (Mrs. Simmons), Mineral Water Gardening (Mr. Novitt), Chrysanthemums (Mr. Blue), Forcing Bulbs (Dr. Zeiner), Gardening Under Lights (Mr. Woodward).

Botany: Plant Communities (Dr. Denham), General Botany (Dr. Hugh Wingate), Basic Taxonomy (Dr. Brunquist), Identification of Common Mushrooms (Mr. Grimes).

General: Dried Flower Arrangements (Mrs. Kosanke), Herbarium (Dr. Zeiner), Use of Library (Ms. Huggins), African Violet Workshop (Hi-Hopes Study Club), Rose Symposium (Rose Societies), Bottle Gardens (Mr. Hannigan), Canning and Freezing Garden Produce (Ms. Anderson), Techniques of Drying Flowers (Mrs. Kosanke), Elementary and Intermediate Bonsai (Mrs. Neal), Christmas Swags (Mr. Ashley), Traditions of Holiday Plants (Dr. Jackson).

Field Trips: Monthly Plant Identification Field Trips, from March to September (Dr. Brunquist), Chatfield Dam Area (Mrs. Echelmeyer, Mrs. Shepherd), Adams County Nature Preserve (Mr. Neiderkorn, Mrs. Steele), Pawnee Grasslands (Mr. Cowgill), Cheesman Park (Mr. Hostetter), Mt. Goliath, 3 times (Mrs. Ash, Mrs. Shepherd), St. Mary's Glacier (Mr. and Mrs. Tumure), Plants of the City (Miss White), Art Museum (Museum Staff), Florissant Fossil Beds (Mr. Kanski), Outside Gardens, Denver Botanic Gardens (Mr. Park), Tree Walk, Washington Park (Dr. Gambill), Applewood Seed Company (Mr. and Mrs. Milstein), Governor's Garden.

Children's Program: The Gardens offered six classes in conjunction with the National Junior Horticulture Association.


Use of Facilities

The steady growth of interest in, and use of, Denver Botanic Gardens continued in 1975. A turnstile count at the East Gateway showed 234,334 visitors during the year, a new record. Meetings, lectures, programs and shows in Horticulture Hall were attended by 14,103 persons. Attendance at classes and meetings in the lecture rooms of the Education Building reached 10,610, while 5,470 persons attended meetings in Botanic Gardens House. Several hundreds attended such events as the African Violet Workshop, meeting of the Institute of International Education, Rose Symposium, Parks and Recreation Program, African Violet Show and Sale, Colorado Water Color Exhibit, and the Children's Garden Fair and Graduation. Visitors numbered in the thousands at each of the following: Annual Plant Sale, Gift Shop Christmas Sale, Iris Society Show and Sale, Denver Bonsai Club Show and Exhibition, Gladiolus Society Show and Sale, and the Dahlia Society Show.

And still they come, more and more each year, as the popularity of the Gardens continually increases.
Publications

The lively and learned quarterly magazine of Denver Botanic Gardens, The Green Thumb, again presented a variety of horticultural, botanical, and historical articles, ranging from "A Garden for Molly Brown" and "Early Colorado Botanists" to such thorny subjects as "Russian Thistle" and "Getting Acquainted with Cacti." In October, due to the press of other commitments, co-editors Dr. Janet L. and Dr. F. H. Wingate resigned. Dr. Patricia Smith edited the winter issue. The Wingates edited the Annual Report for 1974.

A new Visitor's Guide for the Gardens was published during the year. Bernice Petersen (Mrs. J. V.) wrote the text and Dr. Janet L. Wingate (Mrs. F. H.) made the illustrations.

The 8th printing of Walter Pesman's Meet the Natives came from the press in 1975, demonstrating the continued popularity of that classic.

Margaret Sikes continued to edit competently, reliably, and cheerfully, the monthly Newsletter.

Eileen Bloustein, working with Beverly Nilsen, continued, in a spritely manner, to publish the Jolly Green Gardener for junior members.

These are the people who are strengthening Botanic Gardens' reputation for fine publications.

Helen Fowler Library

"Growing" is again the word to describe the Helen Fowler Library.

During 1975, 735 books were added to the collection of the Library, to bring the total number of books in the collection to 6,242. This is a 13 per cent increase in one year.

Of the new books, 108 were purchased by the monthly donation from the Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens, 137 were purchased from the proceeds of the annual book sale, 61 books donated for the book sale were placed in the Library collection, and 36 were purchased with the money collected as overdue fines. More than half of the Library accessions in 1975 was composed of the 425 books donated or purchased through the generosity of garden clubs, plant societies, companies, and individuals. Six more books came to the Library as memorials.

The Library was a busy place. It was host to 27,613 people during the year. 11,056 of whom used its books and services in some way. The number of books circulated rose to 6,311, and 283 of its pamphlets were used. The phone rang frequently as 3,466 calls for information were received. Volunteers are indispensable to the operation of the Library and in 1975 those volunteers put in 4,575 hours of work. New memberships in Denver Botanic Gardens, originating in the Library, amounted to 248. The staff joined with the greenhouse staff in answering the flood of calls for information from "Dr. Green."

"Doctor Green"

Perhaps no Botanic Gardens program is increasing in public interest and value as fast as the "Dr. Green" service inaugurated in 1974. Each Tuesday and Thursday, for two hours in the afternoon, staff members with sufficient expertise answer the plant and gardening questions of all who call or come to the Helen Fowler Library. Already "Dr. Green" receives an average of 40 calls daily, and at each two-hour session sees about 10 plants brought in to be identified or have their ailments diagnosed. The large number of calls and drop-in clients at all times so interrupted the regular work of staff members that it was found necessary to establish the limited hours for the question period.

Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium

Work on mounting and incorporating specimens into the herbarium continues, with the main project in 1975 the completion of the specimens donated by Dr. E. H. Brunquist. Many of these were identified by Dr. H. D. Harrington.

The display balcony continues to attract visitors. Seasonal displays of fresh materials, changed weekly, are valuable aids in plant identification. Other exhibits of a more permanent nature are changed periodically.

During the summer, many persons bring plants to the herbarium to ask for help in identifying them. Several slide collections have been identified.

High school classes come to learn about the Herbarium and to learn how to prepare and mount specimens.

The Herbarium is supervised by Dr. Helen Zeiner (Mrs. Fred), Honorary Curator, assisted by Marjorie Shepherd and other volunteers. It is open each Tuesday and, by appointment, at other times.

Mycology Laboratory and Herbarium

Under the direction of Dr. D. H. Mitchel, Honorary Curator of Mycology, the Mycology Laboratory and Herbarium grows vigorously in the areas of research, education, and community service.

During 1975 approximately 1,000 more specimens were added to the Mycological Herbarium. These have been described and studied microscopically, indexed, photographed, and stored for further study. About 300 of these are Myxomycetes. Specimens have been exchanged with the herbaria of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the University of California at Chico, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the State University of Virginia at Blacksburg, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Fungus Herbarium at Beltsville, Maryland. Our herbarium has been approved for listing in the International Directory of Herbaria published in Amsterdam and a preliminary application has been made to obtain a federal grant for the herbarium. Ongoing projects include an intensive study of the Myxomycetes and Gastromycetes of Colorado, as well as a study of Armillaria species in the Rocky Mountains.


A number of other important works were prepared during the year for future publication.

The Curator has continued to be active as a Trustee of the North American Mycological Association and has served as Chairman of the Toxicology Committee of that organization, participating in a course and conducting a seminar at the National Foray in New Hampshire in September. He has actively served on other committees and projects.
throughout a school semester. The Denver program, part of a national program, is
designed to allow students to test their capabilities and explore their interests.

Daniel Brownson, an East High School student, came to the Gardens in
September and worked in all aspects of the Gardens under the direction and
supervision of the director, who served as his sponsor. Dan was a willing worker and
made friends throughout the organization. On Fridays, after his four-day stint at the
Gardens, Dan either took part in seminars with other interns in the program or
attended meetings at his own school.

Other students will come to the Gardens as interns for a semester in the future.

Personnel

Mr. Lee (D.H.) Schwade, a native of Denver, was appointed Botanist-
Horticulturist on the staff of Denver Botanic Gardens in the summer of 1975. He is a
graduate of East High School and of Regis College, where he received a Bachelor of
Arts Degree, Cum Laude. Following his graduation from Regis, Mr. Schwade taught
biological and physical science at Holy Family High School in Denver. Later he
obtained his Master of Arts degree in Biological Science from the University of
Northern Colorado, and completed the curriculum in Urban Horticulture at the
Community College of Denver.

At the Botanic Gardens he was placed in charge of the program in plant
propagation, working in close cooperation with Richard Schimming. He has also been
assigned to the Children's Garden program where he assisted in the windup of the
1975 season.

All the members of the Botanic Gardens Staff are dedicated, competent, and
hard-working, accomplishing wonders in meeting the demands placed upon them as the
Gardens grow — as can be seen in the foregoing sections of this report.

During the late fall, the Botanic Gardens selected a uniform which is to be worn
by the permanent workers in the outside gardens, the shops, and the greenhouses. The
trousers are dark brown, worn with a tan shirt, with the Botanic Gardens logo worn as
a shoulder patch. The workers greet 1976 "all dressed up and ready to go."

SILVER JUBILEE

RECORDS PROGRESS

Bernice E. Petersen

In tracing the history of Denver Botanic Gardens on this its Silver Anniversary,
one must glimpse the ideas, the ideals, and the accomplishments of many citizens of
vision and organizations of action who urged experimentation in horticulture,
promoted education and conservation, and fostered use of native plants and adapt-
bility of exotic ones. Those efforts culminated in authorization of Articles of
Incorporation of the Botanical Gardens Foundation of Denver on February 3, 1951.

Nearly a century had passed since William Newton Byers, founder and editor of
the Rocky Mountain News, held the first exposition of grain and vegetables in the
News office in 1860. An Agricultural Society was formed in 1863 and with the
encouragement of Governor John Evans the first territorial fair was held in 1866.

The Colorado State Forestry Association, formed November 19, 1884 and
headed by Col. Edward Ensign of Colorado Springs, was probably the second forestry
association established in the United States. This early organization urged establishment
of forest reserves and asked Congress to adopt legislation to protect the forests of the
public domain from destruction. By 1891 President Harrison had signed a proclamation
establishing the first timber reserve in Wyoming, the second in the White River Plateau
in Colorado. By 1897 Congress had passed an act providing for the organization and
management of public forests. The Forestry Association merged briefly with the State
Horticultural Society in 1888 but separated in 1891 because, as the minutes stated,
their interests were too diverse.

Through editorials Mr. Byers earnestly advocated experiments with fruits, vege-
tables, and trees in this arid-alkaline environment and by 1900 35 kinds of trees
surrounded his residence, now the site of Byers Junior High School. He served on the
first Board of Managers for the State Forestry Association and was its president at the
time of his death in 1903.

Among the many prominent citizens in the Forestry group were Walter
Cheesman and Henry M. Porter. Anna R. Garrey (Mrs. George) wrote, "How little did
they dream of the part their daughters, Mrs. John Evans and Mrs. James J. Waring
were to play in realizing their early plans for directed research in plant material —
resulting finally in a botanic garden in Denver!"

In 1910 Saco R. DeBoer, a Dutch immigrant, went to work as an engineer and
horticulturist in the Denver Parks Department under Mayor Robert W. Speer. Planning
and landscaping of Denver's parks had been under way since 1894 with Reinhard
Scheutze as landscape architect.
As Mrs. Garrey so aptly wrote, "The practical horticulturist Mr. DeBoer, whose interests were soon to embrace a wide field — city and community planning — found his place under the leadership of Robert Speer. To these men of vision the orderly development of a rapidly growing community was of utmost importance. The needs seemed limitless — in extensive planting, what trees and shrubs would survive in this semi-arid land?"

"In earlier years our pioneers had realized this need and now ...... Saco DeBoer brought new realization of a way to fulfill this need — a botanic garden. With missionary zeal he spread his conviction ...."

He joined the Colorado Forestry Association, hopeful that his efforts would become more effective and served as president for many years until pressures of business forced his resignation in 1934. As the government assumed more responsibility for the forests and as interest in horticulture increased, a new group, The Denver Society for Ornamental Horticulture, was formed in 1916. Mr. DeBoer was its second president and also edited its bulletin Garden Hints for many years.

In the interests of horticulture Mayor Speer suggested that a flower show be held in the new city auditorium. With encouragement and sponsorship of The Garden Club of Denver, which helped in financing these shows, Mr. DeBoer spoke with local florists who stripped their greenhouses to give a creditable display. Recently when his biography was being readied for publication, Mr. DeBoer pointed out that Mrs. Garrey was chairman of that flower show in 1919, and in reality it was then that she took up the challenge to seek civic and private funds to establish a Botanic Gardens. Since that early effort her enthusiasm has never diminished.

"Anna Garrey's Overview," an observation site at the present gardens, honors Mrs. Garrey as one of the pioneers in the establishment of Denver Botanic Gardens.

A. Lincoln Fellows was president of the Forestry Association in 1938 followed by M. Walter Pesman, who had been a partner of Mr. DeBoer in a landscape architecture firm. During the depression years Mr. Pesman retained the work of landscaping Denver school grounds and Mr. DeBoer gained prominence as a city planner.

**Botanic Gardens Planned**

At a meeting of the Colorado Forestry Association in 1941 Kathryn Kalmbach (Mrs. E. R.) presented the following motion:

"Resolved that the Colorado State Forestry Association endorse and aid in the establishment of a Botanic Garden within and adjacent to Denver where various tree, shrub and herb species may be tested. Such a Botanic Garden may not be in one large tract, but many small tracts, located in various zones, extending from the typical Eastern Prairie Zone to Alpine Timberlands. The State Association is not interested primarily in a 'Show Place' within the city limits but in the practical demonstration of the adaptability of the tree, shrub and herb species to various natural zones. Such demonstration tracts may be located on city, state, or federally owned lands, through arrangements made with the proper agencies, and such available lands should be assigned to botanical purposes at any time opportunity is presented."

By 1943 it became obvious that the Colorado Forestry Association as well as the Denver Society for Ornamental Horticulture would both benefit by fusing into a single new group which would be called the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association. Mr. Pesman, president, set about establishing a new constitution and bylaws which were written with the assistance of George W. Kelly, Robert E. More, Irvin McCrary, John H. Gabriel, and others. Mr. McCrary, landscape architect and city planner, offered space in his office at 16th and Broadway where the first numbers of *The Green Thumb* were prepared with dynamic Mr. Kelly, nurseryman and naturalist, as editor and acting head.

The first issue of *The Green Thumb* stated among the organization's objectives: "That this Association take the initiative in promoting a Rocky Mountain Botanic Garden. This project has had the consideration of the Association for so many years that there is no necessity here to stress its importance ...." To that first issue Mr. DeBoer contributed "The Colorado Landscape" in which he emphasized the importance of understanding horticulture here, and the idealist, Mr. Pesman asked, "What will the Rocky Mountain Arboretum give to the world?"
agreement with the City and County of Denver was ratified, an official seal was adopted and the following officers were elected: Mrs. Evans, president, Milton J. Keegan, vice-president, Malcolm Lindsey, vice-president, Mrs. Garrey, vice-president, and Dr. Noras L. Shubert, secretary-treasurer. Executive Committee Members were the offices listed and Myron K. Blackmer, Mr. DeBoer, William H. Ferguson and Hudson Moore, Jr. Charter Trustees besides the above were Charlotte Barbour (Mrs. A. L.), William H. Ferguson, George Kelly, Robert E. More, Dr. Robert L. Stearns and Ruth Porter Waring (Mrs. James J.). Ex-Officio members were Frazer Arnold, President, Denver Zoological Foundation, Fred R. Johnson, President, Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association, Mr. Moore, Jr., President, Museum of Natural History, and Mayor Quigg Newton.

City Park Garden Begun

Work began promptly. An interesting feature of the plan was a rocky canyon simulating high mountain terrain. This was built to the southwest of the museum. Large boulders were brought in — a generous gift of the Charles Gates family. From this height a stream meandered through the meadow ending in a lily pond. Alpine plants were to be planted in the canyon followed by plantings typical of each succeeding zone. A conservatory was included in the design and plantings of various tree, shrub and herb species were indicated. What a fascinating idea!

Enthusiasm soared. By 1954, in a progress report to CF&HA the following plantings were listed: Milton J. Keegan — French hybrid lilacs; S. R. DeBoer — a collection of 47 flowering crabapples; Robert E. More — a unique gift of 250 varieties of evergreen in a pinetum located south of the Museum. Helen Fowler (Mrs. John) gave a collection of ferns; the Denver Rose Society sponsored plantings of 4,000 roses; District 20 of the American Iris Society with Dr. John Durrance and LeMoine Bechtold as planners, planted a rainbow iris garden and the latter, who had developed numerous hybrid daylilies including the first spider form, provided a collection of hemerocallis. The Men’s Garden Clubs of Colorado planted 36 varieties of flowering cherries, plums, apricots and peaches.

Mr. Kelly served as director and coordinator (as well as director of CF&HA) until Robert Woerner, a landscape architect and horticulturist from Spokane, Washington, was selected by the Trustees and the City to direct the Gardens full time. Office space was provided at the Museum.

By 1958 Mr. Woerner reported that 1,000 species and varieties of plants were growing at City Park and an Alpine Tundra Study Area had been set aside on Mt. Goliath about 50 miles from Denver. Established by permission of the U.S. Forest Service and jointly maintained with them this outpost consists of 160 acres ranging in altitude from 11,500 to 12,150 feet with a spectacular timberline forest of bristlecone pine (Pinus aristata Engelm.). A 2-mile trail, named in honor of Mr. Pesman, leads visitors during summer months on a self-guided tour to study and enjoy plants typical of the Arctic.

Plant data have been compiled and published. A Mt. Goliath folder describing alpine tuendra and lichens, is offered at Botanic Gardens Gift Shop and at the Idaho Springs Ranger Station.

Another important plateau was reached during 1958 when the Botanical Gardens Foundation of Denver was granted permission to begin development of an herbaceous unit on York Street. What caused a change of plan and location?

Mrs. Garrey reported in The Idea Precedes the Accomplishment that the Botanic Gardens Trustees were soon confronted by a serious problem. Depredation in the herbaceous sector at City Park was incredible. Vandalism was rampant and effective policing was impossible. “The subsequent necessity to abandon this original plan and move the Gardens’ headquarters remains a sad comment on our times.”

Botanic Gardens House Given

At this point Dr. and Mrs. James J. Waring offered to purchase a headquarters building at 909 York Street adjacent to an 18 acre plot once occupied by Mt. Calvary Cemetery but now owned by the City. On September 21, 1958, The Denver Post reported that the “Normandy residence” of the Elmer Hartner family would become the headquarters of the Denver Botanic Gardens Foundation. The transfer of ownership was consummated early in 1959 and on April 1 the Botanic Gardens House was opened, dedicated as a memorial to Mrs. Waring’s father, pioneer businessman and philanthropist, Henry M. Porter. A residence from 1923 to 1958, the building, with its distinctive architecture, designed by Jacques Benois Benedict, and with remaining original decor, was designated a Denver landmark in 1973 for historical preservation. As Virginia McConnell Simmons (Mrs. George C.) wrote, “Rarely have beauty and utility been so happily joined as in the Denver Botanic Gardens House.”

Besides the administrative office the House was used for meetings, teas and conferences, for research and educational activities. The Helen Fowler Library was located in the library while the Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium of dried plant specimens was stored in linen closets on the second floor. Space was allotted for the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs headquarters as well as CF&HA, for Horticulture House had been razed to make way for the University of Denver Law Building. Eventually an additional building was planned to house an auditorium and classrooms with space for flower shows and all types of horticultural activities.

Since funds for developing the new York Street unit were limited, the various segments of the horticultural community united in one giant effort to hold a Garden Show and Fair to raise money toward this shared goal.

With Marnie Epich Honnen (Mrs. E. H.), chairman, and Patrick J. Gallavan and Mr. Woerner, directors of the sponsoring organizations, as co-chairmen, the first Garden Show and Fair was held at the University of Denver Field House May 16, 17 and 18, 1968. An immense naturalistic rock garden, focal point of the show, was developed by Sam Huddleston, representing the landscape architects, together with Mr. Kelly, now a nurseryman and landscape planner, and Lew Hammer, landscape contractor. Federated garden clubs prepared seven model gardens, commercial exhibits and educational...
displays dotted the perimeter. The Home Garden Club of Denver, a non-affiliated group, sponsored an open competitive flower show along the balcony and commercial florists contributed distinctive floral displays. The Garden Club of Denver sold unusual hand-decorated and other gift items and the annual plant auction climaxd the affair. Cooperation and good fellowship abounded. Profits were $5,273 and were divided between the two sponsors.

**Botanic Gardens, Inc. Formed**

Since CF&HA was privately supported and faced financial difficulties it seemed expedient to fuse this group with the Botanical Gardens Foundation, which received some support from the City. In November 1960 Scott Wilmore, president of CF&HA and Lawrence Long, president of the Gardens, in a joint statement announced the two organizations were at last one. Mr. Long was president of Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc. Mrs. Waring was named vice-president, John C. Mitchell, treasurer, and Mrs. Garrey, assistant secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Aubrey C. Hildreth, who had retired as director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Experimental Station at Cheyenne, Wyoming became director of the Gardens in 1959 and at the official dedication ceremonies Sunday, September 20, 1959 he predicted: “Denver has great possibilities for developing something unique among botanic gardens of America, or in fact, of the world. Our high mountains, so near at hand, have a great variety of climatic conditions, representing everything from here to the Arctic region. With these mountains for growing cold-loving plants, the units in the city for temperate zone plants, and the Conservatory which is planned for this unit of the Gardens for growing tropical and sub-tropical species, it will be possible to have in this vicinity for study and exhibition a complete cross-section of the plant kingdom, from the equator to the polar regions. Few large cities of the world have this opportunity.”

Development of the grounds took form, walls and fencing were installed to afford protection. Staff for administration and maintenance was increased. The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects offered their services in designing the landscape planting for the Herbaceous Unit or York Street. Five Denver members donated their time: Gerald F. Kessler, Andrew Lison, Frances White Novitt, Mr. Pesman and Jane Silverstein Ries (Mrs. H. F.), Ed Wallace and Mrs. Novitt were employed for the final drafting of the planting plans.

In accordance with Dr. Hildreth's suggestions, stone and concrete work between York and Josephine were scheduled for completion the following spring, a Children's Garden Program should occupy first educational priority and garden clubs would be invited to develop areas in the Gardens subject to the Director's approval. A first essential, a pickup truck, was donated by the Men's Garden Club of Denver. The Children's Garden program became reality with a group of boy and girl scouts pioneering this effort. Working in teams the children planted and maintained their own garden plots with parents as volunteer supervisors. A Children's Shelter, a covered patio, garage, space for storing garden tools, and restrooms were dedicated December 7, 1960, a gift of Mrs. Waring. For her very generous support and encouragement in the development of the children's garden program and of Denver Botanic Gardens the children's garden was named the Ruth Waring Children's Gardens.

The Terrace and Garden Tour, featuring eight attractive gardens with adjacent garden rooms or patios shown in a single day, was held in June 1960. Sponsored by The Garden Club of Denver, Anne Weckbaugh (Mrs. J. Kiernan), chairman, reported the earnings, $2,010, would be used to assist in the development of Denver Botanic Gardens.

In 1951 Daisy Hastings (Mrs. Paul) had originated the idea for “Look and Learn Garden Tours” to benefit CF&HA. She lined up gardens in various sections of the city for tours in spring, summer, and early autumn. Sue Johnson (now Mrs. George Kelly) was responsible for garden experts and ticket sales. Most of the gardens selected were maintained by their owners who were often on hand to share their particular techniques. Spirited by Denver’s Rush to the Rockies in 1959, Mrs. Barbour and Frances M. Catherwood (Mrs. Hugh) chose 13 gardens owned by descendants of Denver’s pioneers. In subsequent years the Annual Terrace and Garden Tours have been the effort of The Garden Club of Denver, the Perennial Garden Club, and Denver Botanic Gardens Guild serving jointly or singly. More recently members of the Guild select the gardens, sponsoring the project to benefit DBG and the Herb Garden.

A planting of 100 miniature roses in 16 varieties by members of Home Garden Club of Denver was recorded in _The Green Thumb_, July 1960. Many of the participants had been active in CF&HA, herbarium, library, membership, garden tours, editorial committee, and garden fairs. Their craft workshops provided decorations and favors for dinners and sales. With the merging of DBG and CF&HA, 20 of these dedicated volunteers would offer their services as members of Around the Seasons Club which was formally organized January 19, 1961 with Katharine B. Crisp (Mrs. William H.) as president.

During those first years at the York street site Park Floral Co. of Englewood donated services and greenhouse space for more than 7,000 annual plants. District 20 of the American Iris Society planted additional irises including the Randolph collection of dwarfs and intermediates. The Netherlands Flower–Bulb Institute sent 7,750 spring flowering bulbs for test and the Denver Dahlia Society planted 250 dahlias all properly staked and labelled. The Colorado Gladiolus Society planted 8,000 corms including some 5,000 seedlings provided by Alice Wood and Lee J. Ashley. Colorado Cactophiles gave indoor and outdoor cacti. The Gardens tested as many as 10,000 common garden annuals within a year including 193 varieties of marigolds, verbens, petunias, celosias and zinnias. Poppies, daylilies, penstemons, and other herbaceous plants were also tried, including a collection of chrysanthemums originally developed by Dr. Hildreth at Cheyenne. A group of ilacs was donated by Lemoine Bechtold, who also donated some of his seedling daylilies. Jack Withers and Gilbert Wild & Sons also contributed. Local nurserymen and out of state nurseries maintained their enthusiasm as contributors, and the Denver Rose Society continued its interest at City Park as well as providing plants at the new location. DBG was responsible for both locations as well as the outpost on Mt. Goliath.

The Gates Memorial Garden was begun in Autumn 1961. Planning it as a garden for meditation, Mr. DeBoer combined plantings of native conifers, deciduous trees, and shrubs, with rocky cliffs, a waterfall and pool with a meandering stream to depict a bit of Rocky Mountain landscape.

The gardener staff totaled three and Judge Philip Gilliam offered a Juvenile Court Work Program assigned both to Denver Mountain Parks and DBG. Both the youngsters and the Gardens profited as they weeded and cultivated some 20,000 plants.

About that time the Denver Botanic Gardens Guild (formed in August 1960 as the DBG Junior Committee) undertook a study of herbs and elected to sponsor a model herb garden. The members planted and grew herbs to use in brewing herb vinegar and sold herbs as their part in the Plant Sale and Auction. A traditional bow-knot garden was designed by Persis M. Owen to contain familiar as well as rare varieties of culinary and medicinal herbs and dye plants. The garden was dedicated in 1965 when a statue, Boy with Frog, a work of internationally-known sculptress Elsa Ward Hering was donated by Louisa Ward Arps (Mrs. Elwyn) as the focal feature in memory of the artist. Recently an extension of this nationally-recognized garden was completed with a sundial honoring the designer's memory.

Conservatory Funds Given

Dreams of tree ferns and coconut palms in Denver were destined to become reality when a $600,000 grant was announced by Trustees of the Boettcher Foundation on January 7, 1963. With a conservatory, hundreds of other tropical and subtropical plants would become familiar to people of this region. Here youngsters, amateur gardeners, and students of botany and horticulture might study actively growing plants year-around, either in classrooms or in a living laboratory. Twice Claude K. Boettcher had proposed the gift of a conservatory to the City but neither offer had been accepted in his lifetime.

Earlier the Boettcher Foundation had given $10,000 for research and preliminary designs for a conservatory-auxiliary-greenhouse complex. Near year's end the Gardens and the City accepted plans by Victor Hornbein and Edward White, architects. Gerald H. Phipps, Inc. was awarded the contract for construction.

Excitement and anticipation were paramount and for the first time Denver Botanic Gardens had a membership drive, under the leadership of Mary Filley (Mrs. Giles) and "Knobby" Brown (Mrs. Mackintosh), both active in the Guild. To be sure, a membership roster had been the very life-blood of CF&HA and was transferred to the merged organization. Although The Green Thumb, the voice of CF&HA, had begun as a monthly publication, by financial necessity the number of issues had been reduced gradually to ten, eight, and then six issues and was presently edited by Joseph E. Oppe, assistant to the director. An additional benefit of membership would be a Green Thumb Newsletter, offering timely garden reminders and a calendar of noteworthy activities at the Gardens. Marilyn Holmes (Mrs. Hardin), a volunteer, would edit the monthly leaflet.

The year 1964 marked the beginning of construction of the dominant structure in the building plans. Grading got under way January 21, and for months work was mostly underground installing the massive concrete and steel foundation. In all, 116 concrete caissons bear the weight and penetrate the earth about 250 feet. Weaving a lacy pattern in the brilliant blue Colorado sky against the snow-capped Rocky Mountains the interlacing concrete ribbons of superstructure were poured in place in plywood forms supported by a wooden framework. Plexiglas panes were individually pre-formed into a low pyramid to increase the strength of the 1/8-inch-thick plexiglas. Not only did this "faceting" afford a jewel-like interest to the building surface but also the panes were designed to channel humidity to the side of the Conservatory thus eliminating the "raindrops on our heads." Installed on the perimeter of the building were 39 fans to keep air in motion with ten additional fans concealed in bases of lighting fixtures to pick up air from the ground surface and blow it out the top of the hollow lamp posts.

An additional auxiliary greenhouse range with adjoining laboratory rooms and space for cool storage of bulbs and other plant material was made possible by a gift from Mrs. Waring. Supplemented by a small allotment from the City and County of Denver, work began immediately west of the Conservatory in late December. Again Phipps Construction was lowest bidder.

The year 1964 was equally significant in another aspect of Denver Botanic Gardens as a cultural asset to the community, for volunteerism at the Gardens took a giant stride.

The first plant auction was held in 1949 in the Greek Theatre at Civic Center for the benefit of CF&HA. Mrs. Barbour and John Swingle had originated the idea. Nurserymen and members donated trees, shrubs, irises, and other perennials. "Antiques" and "Horribles" were additions for a time. Over the years auctions were staged behind Horticulture House, at various shopping centers, as part of the Garden Fairs, and finally at Botanic Gardens House. Profits fluctuated but good fellowship always prevailed.

The year of the tents at Cherry Creek (1957) the Garden Club of Denver offered distinctive arrangements of artificial fruit for sale and various trustees contributed handcrafted items. Clyde Learned personally selected the first annuals purchased at wholesale and sold at retail. Profits reached $5,000 but a couple of years later fell to $1,800.
In 1964 best plants were chosen from test trials at the Gardens and plants were started from seed by various greenhouse growers. The Guild was responsible for herb sales, members of the Federated Garden Clubs solicited home garden donations and Around the Seasons Club was responsible for ordering and selling all other plants. Volunteers came from the Men’s Garden Clubs, Swingle Study Group, the Federation, and the Trustees. Some nurseries offered donations; others consigned items. The Gardens were at their best blooming with 7,600 bulbs in full flower. The event was a sell-out and the auction had been eliminated.

Although the affair was a triumphant success the sale was grossly understaffed. Dr. Hildreth and his assistant, Mr. Oppe, were continually pressured to lead tours of the outdoor gardens. With the opening of the Conservatory imminent, guides would be essential. City Park unit needed more care than the City budget would allow. An outlet for handicrafts as well as books, pamphlets, and other horticulturally related items would be fortunate. Hostesses to greet guests at Botanic Gardens House were needed, and the Library Committee was attempting to be of greater service.

In September 1964 Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens was organized with Fran Morrison (Mrs. Graham), president of Around the Seasons Club, the founder, and “Dusty” Smith (Mrs. Chard) of Denver Botanic Gardens Guild, the first president. This group, the first service group with unlimited membership, offered physical aid and financial assistance. Many from the existing organizations became part of Associates and Associates part of them. A silver tea announced the opening of Botanic Gardens Gift Shop and a Christmas tree sparkled with miniature lights and fresh white Colorado Carnations supplied by the growers. Avalonnie Kosanke (Mrs. Robert M.) with a committee of volunteers created additional holiday atmosphere for the first annual pre-Christmas sale.

Anticipation and construction were predominant in 1965. A conservatory superintendent, Ernest Bibeé from the Missouri Botanical Gardens, joined the staff to oversee development of the Conservatory. A total of 309 children participated in the Children’s Garden program including an off-campus garden at the Retarded Children’s Center and another at Auraria Community Center. A series of lectures on botanical subjects was sponsored by the new Education Committee under the leadership of Dr. Wayne Christian.

Conservatory Dedicated

Formal dedication on January 16 of the Edna C. and Claude K. Boettcher Memorial Conservatory was the highlight for the year 1966. Participants in the ribbon cutting ceremony were Mrs. Charles Boettcher II, Thomas G. Currigan, Mayor of Denver, John A. Love, Governor of Colorado, Joe Ciancio, Manager Parks and Recreation, Lawrence Long, President of DBG Board of Trustee, and Chris Dobbins, Chairman of the Boettcher Foundation.

Even before its completion the building had won international recognition for its unique design and unusual structure — the only conservatory in America made entirely of concrete and plexiglas. More than 600 species and varieties of tropical plants had been acquired for growing in our enclosed bit of tropical terrain with naturalistic pools, waterfalls, and jungle plantings — another departure from the classical arrangement of plantings typical of older conservatories.

Two large transport loads of tropical trees, shrubs, and vines had been brought from southern Florida and one from south Texas. Four smaller loads were gifts of the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Other fine tropical plant specimens were donated by commercial greenhouses. Volunteers from the four service groups hosted opening ceremonies.

The Gift Shop, managed by the Associates, moved into the foyer of the new building and by year’s end Cathy Petersen (Mrs. Charles V.) was chairman of the Gift Shop Committee. The South Room, originally planned as a snack bar, was constantly used for every other purpose including art exhibits, classrooms, and special sales.

Under the leadership of Peg Hayward (Mrs. Phil), 36 volunteers were trained as Conservatory tour guides and during 1966 more than 100 groups were given guided tours. Visitors to the Gardens between late April, (after turnstiles had been installed) through December 31 numbered 163,000.

The first Conservatory Plant Guide, the May-June 1966 issue of The Green Thumb magazine, was devoted entirely to the new facility. It described the buildings, plans, maintenance, and numerical identification of over 200 plants.

Guided tours of the grounds were coordinated by Mary Washbourne (Mrs. P. B.). Assisted by eight trained volunteer guides, approximately 800 people were conducted through the Gardens. Labelling of plants beganalong the Pesman Trail on Mt. Goliath and printed signs describing the ecology and geology of the area were illustrated with line drawings by Suzanne Ash.

Dr. Louis B. Martin, formerly of Los Angeles County Department of Arboretum and Botanic Gardens, became director of Denver Botanic Gardens August 29. The Board of Trustees conferred upon Dr. Hildreth the title Director Emeritus upon his retirement August 31, 1966.

The following year our president, Lawrence A. Long, resigned for health reasons but fortunately for the Gardens his interest has not faltered.

John C. Mitchell accepted the presidency early in 1969 and at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees on February 20 Hudson Moore, Jr. announced an additional grant of $500,000 from the Boettcher Foundation. Combining this money given by many interested citizens and civic groups this surprise grant assured construction of the education building, the final phase of the master building plan at Denver Botanic Gardens.

Within four months construction was under way. Essentially in accordance with plans by Hornbein and White, approved in 1963, the new building complemented, aesthetically as well as functionally, the fundamental elements of a botanical institution. Slope of the ground permitted making the north part of the building three stories high and yet subordinate to the Conservatory.

Again new realities! But dreams for bringing about completion of a Master Design for Denver Botanic Gardens were only beginning. During Dr. Martin’s tenure at the Gardens he continued to press for a master plan for the outdoor gardens. The City was undergoing severe financial restraints, the budget for plantings was withdrawn. Mrs. Barbour offered funds for plantings south of the Conservatory walkways but other needs were vital. An $850,000 Development Fund Drive was launched. John D. Hersher was general chairman. Division chairmen of the campaign were George Cannon, R. Earle Honnen, James E. Wilson and Alfred A. Wiens. In all, 125 dedicated volunteers served in this tremendous effort. Pledges were accepted in money, stocks and other property. Gifts were sought as memorials or living tributes. Gifts-in-kind were made by Colorado nurserymen. Heavy equipment would be furnished in various phases of development as well as donations of concrete and other materials. Funds would also be used to acquire land for long-range parking facilities, to expand the Children’s Garden program, and to establish a special contingency maintenance endowment fund.

Redevelopment of the York Street unit of Denver Botanic Gardens in accordance with a plan prepared by Eckbo, Dean, Austin and Williams, a leading firm of landscape architects in San Francisco, was begun September 28, 1970. Andrew R. Knaur, the new Assistant Director, arrived shortly after Dr. Martin left to become director of
Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. Mr. Knauer directed the work of contouring earth, of installing elaborate waterways and irrigating systems. In the midst of this construction and reconstruction Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr. returned to his native state to assume the position of director of Denver Botanic Gardens in July 1970.

**Education Building Opened**

On March 6, 1971 a longed-for dream became reality. The formal opening of the Education Building marked completion of the whole building complex at Denver Botanic Gardens. Cris Dobbins, Board Chairman of the Boettcher Foundation, symbolically presented the Boettcher Memorial Center to the City and County of Denver with Mayor Bill McNichols accepting. In all, the Boettcher Foundation had granted one and half million dollars to Denver Botanic Gardens toward its goal to provide botanical education and enjoyment to the citizens of Denver and Colorado.

The Boettcher Foundation, conceived by Claude K. and nurtured financially by all members of the family, was formed in 1937 “to most effectively assist, encourage and promote the general well-being of mankind” in Colorado.

The lobby court with waterfall and pool surrounded by displays of ornamental plants provided an impressive entry to the Center.

Horticulture Hall, a combination lecture hall and exhibition room could accommodate more than 400 people. The adjacent plant preparation room with cool plant storage facilities was equally appealing to many plant societies. Shows and exhibits became annual events for Ikebana International, African Violet Council, Bonsai clubs, Gladiolus Gesneriad Growers, gladiolus, iris, orchid specialists, and rosarians.

Free public lectures on a variety of subjects were scheduled. Educational courses in botany, flower arranging, horticulture and related subjects were scheduled in the three new classrooms. An education specialist was appointed to the staff to direct a basic program. The Denver Public Schools offered summer botany classes for high school students, and the Community College of Denver scheduled a class in floral design. Numerous short courses were also announced. Heretofore the Education Committee, headed by Dr. Wayne Christian, had planned lectures and classes which were held at the House, in the South Room, or in the garage.

Now in its spacious surroundings the Helen Fowler Library could develop in size and diversity paralleling growth with our Gardens. The library had its beginnings almost 25 years earlier when Mrs. Fowler, a dedicated member of CF&HA donated her personal collection of 500 books to establish a horticultural library in Denver. She urged others to contribute books or money and by 1951 the library boasted more than 2,300 volumes for reference and loan. When Mrs. Fowler was no longer able to foster the library Mrs. Barbour came to its financial rescue and donated funds for new acquisitions on a monthly basis. She and Patrick J. Gallavan provided handcrafted cases to store rare volumes at Botanic Gardens House. At the time the two organizations merged the library was the largest of its kind between St. Louis and the west coast.

Mary B. Hellriegel (Mrs. Arthur) was the first professional librarian to volunteer on a regular basis. She expanded the classification system according to the national standards of library practice. Lucy M. Crissey volunteered and was appointed chairman of the Library Committee. In 1965 she and other trained librarians offered to staff the library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. except Sundays.

In January, prior to dedication of the new Boettcher Memorial Center, Solange Gignac was named staff librarian. For many years Associates has provided a regular $100 monthly donation and recently increased the amount to $150. Through the used-books sale, sponsored by library volunteers, acquisitions have been given another boost. Presently the library contains over 6,300 books and 200 journals pertaining to botany, conservation, and plant-related subjects. A five-volume collection of water colors of Colorado wildflowers by Emma Armstrong Ervin is on permanent display here.

When plans for the Education Building were drawn Mrs. Waring provided funds for a rare book room to house a precious collection of classic herbs and other botanical works, all of which have been given by generous donors. Prized treasures include rare books of Dr. and Mrs. Waring, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Kalmbach, Dr. Hildreth, Mr. and Mrs. Erl H. Ellis, Mrs. Crisp and others.

The Library Committee has six members plus 31 volunteers who staff the facility throughout the year. Miss Crissey is Honorary Librarian.

Located on the mezzanine of the Center is the Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium. Mrs. Kalmbach, at George Kelly’s suggestion, in 1941 began a study and collection of dried pressed plants, systematically named and arranged for ready reference. Mr. Pesman and other enthusiasts from CF&HA, Colorado Mountain Club, and Home Garden Club joined them in collecting specimens and mounting them. Currently collections are under way at Chatfield with Marjorie Shepherd overseeing the project and at the Reed Arboretum near Evergreen, a project of Around the Seasons Club led by Velma Richards (Mrs. H. R.).

Additions to the original herbarium have included the gift of the University of Denver herbarium and a number of smaller private collections such as a few plants from Alice Eastwood and other early collectors, Dr. J. J. Waring’s allergy plant collection, Dr. H. Hartwell’s collection of Colorado plants, Mrs. Crisp’s collection of Denver trees and Colorado wildflowers; Dr. Helen Zeiner (Mrs. Fred) donated her grass collection. Presently more than 10,000 mounted specimens of native and cultivated plants are stored there.

The display area on the balcony is extremely popular during growing seasons, where visitors from nearby and out-of-state can learn the identity of plants both native and exotic. Fresh plant material is displayed weekly and the area is open 9 to 5 daily.

Dr. Zeiner accepted responsibility for the herbarium following Mrs. Kalmbach’s death in 1962. She and her committee, all volunteers, staff the herbarium each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dr. Zeiner is Honorary Curator.

With the opening of Boettcher Memorial Center the gift shop moved into its permanent jewel-box setting. A dream of the founders of Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens, the gift shop began in late 1964 in the foyer of Botanic Gardens House. A borrowed glass-enclosed display case housed the entire operation. Books and handicrafts were among the first offerings. Shortly after its beginning the Gift Shop Committee established a policy that merchandise must justifiably have a hint of nature.

Architects planned a gift shop near the entrance to the Conservatory where the shop first flowered on the dedication of the Conservatory. Within months the area was
too small. Once more the borrowed case was pressed into service and the second annual pre-Christmas sale was held in the south room. By 1968 the shop was thriving in new quarters, actually half of its present setting, with the annual sale held in the lobby as well.

Truly, "A gift from the Gardens is a gift to the Gardens," for over the years proceeds from the gift shop have made possible basic essentials such as a tractor, stake truck, audio-visual equipment. Landscaping around the Center has been possible and landscaping of the Hildreth Garden is nearing completion. Gifts have been made to the herbarium, the library, besides gifts of a greenhouse, a pergola and fountain. Most recent is $5,000 to fund initial needs at Chatfield Arboretum.

These achievements have been made possible because management of the shop, staffing, planning, and purchasing, have all been the work of volunteers. Cathy Petersen (Mrs. Charles V.), Mary Secrest (Mrs. H. E.), Mrs. Morrison, and Mrs. Kosanke were named Honorary Life Members of Denver Botanic Gardens for their dedicated service. Charles Wilkins and Lucille Roberts (Mrs. Wm. N.) have rendered invaluable service as treasurer and assistant. In all, 51 volunteers serve regularly in the gift shop project. This number does not include those who devote limitless hours in craft workshops.

The mycological collection is the most specialized unit of botanical research at the Gardens. In 1967 Dr. D. H. Mitchel and Mary Hallock Wells moved their collections of native fungi species from the Denver Museum of Natural History to Botanic Gardens House. For a time it shared limited space with the herbarium there. Their laboratory equipment, the collection specimens, nearly 1700 color transparencies, technical books and other items have become valuable assets.

Not until the opening of the Education Building did these contributions to botanical science achieve proper status. It was then that the collection was moved to a research laboratory on the garden level of the Center. Meanwhile, Mrs. Wells and Dr. Mitchel organized the Colorado Mycological Society which meets at the Gardens. A book, *Mushroom Poisoning In Colorado*, has been published and distributed to emergency rooms of all hospitals in Colorado as well as 50 or 60 copies to hospitals in Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming.

The collection currently is comprised of over 6,000 fungi from the Rocky Mountain region. All taxonomic studies have been made by volunteers. Dr. Mitchel is Honorary Curator of the Mycological collection.

The year 1971 sparked renewed activity in other areas of Denver Botanic Gardens as well. A Junior Membership was instituted for persons up to 16 years of age, primarily for those participating in the Children's Garden program. The *Jolly Green Gardener*, a bimonthly newsletter, with informative articles about plants and crafts was initiated. Beverly P. Nilsen, staff coordinator of the Children's Garden program, originated the publication. Eileen Bloustein (Mrs. Paul A.), artist and conservatory guide, soon volunteered to edit and illustrate this popular bulletin.

An Open Garden Day was scheduled in October 1971 so members and interested citizens might see the progress that had been made. For many months only workmen were allowed in the Gardens and the only concrete improvements in the massive upheaval were the seemingly endless walkways. Fortunately, the decorative waterways with their turbulent rushing waterfalls, calm streams, and interconnected ponds and lakes brought a myriad of responses from visitors. Work was under the supervision of Wright and McLaughlin.

Research on woody plants suitable for cultivation was made possible with construction of heated deep frames, cold frames, shade houses, and nursery beds. In 1972 more than 4,000 plants were produced by grafting, budding, layering, hardwood cutting, softwood cutting, and seedage. Species and variety collections in this total include eight different cotoneasters, 23 flowering crabapples, 12 magnolias, viburnums, birches, maples, and even lilacs never before grown in North America.

Tempo for a full-scale arboretum was accelerated in March 1973 when Denver's City Council passed an ordinance authorizing Mayor Bill McNichols to sign a 25-year lease on some 750 acres of land at Chatfield Reservoir, Jefferson County, to be used for public park and recreation purposes. This land near the confluence of Deer Creek and the South Platte River is to be developed and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens acting in accordance with plans approved by the Army Corps of Engineers.

This arboretum of native and introduced woody plants will promote ornamental horticulture in this area and enhance the beauty of gardens, parks and parkways along Colorado's Front Range. Two old farms and their buildings will be preserved as model historical farms and a turn-of-the-century one-room school house will be relocated and restored as a headquarters. The Hildebrand farm has been recognized as a national landmark for historical preservation. The *Green Thumb* Summer 1973 gives the Chatfield story.

The 1973 Plant Sale bore little resemblance to the modest beginning 25 years earlier when nurserymen and gardeners donated trees, shrubs, perennials, and services for auction to benefit CF&HA. As stated previously the auction was eliminated in 1964 and by 1969 the sale had expanded to 21 divisions with 318 volunteers. The sales area stretched from Botanic Gardens House to the Conservatory complex. Reconstruction of the out-door Gardens forced clustering the booths in and around Boettcher Memorial Center. During those years when the sale ballooned into the single most important benefit for the Gardens many served selflessly as coordinators or general chairmen: Elna Gibson (Mrs. Jess), Mrs. Honnen, Robin Bruhn (Mrs. Herb), Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Washburne, and Gloria Falkenberg (Mrs. John). Some estimated attendance near 19,000 and the 356 enthusiastic but exhausted volunteers could only agree.

Two new greenhouses, dedicated in April 1974, more than doubled the capacity for growing plants under glass. Funds were provided by the late Dr. John C. Long and the Associates.

A donation of almost 17,000 bulbs representing 71 varieties of spring-flowering plants was received from the Netherlands Flower-Bulb Institute of New York. This
firm makes such contributions annually. Studies of 1973 plantings were published in *The Green Thumb*.

Additions have been made regularly to the All-America Rose Selection test garden. Plantings to existing collections included 57 new daylily varieties in the hemerocallis garden to bring that total to 360 varieties. Miniature dwarf bearded iris and Siberian iris were added. The Denver Dahlia Society established a new display garden with 276 plants. Peony and rose display gardens were other additions as well as 16 varieties of tropical water-lilies in the outdoor water garden. An All-America Gladiolus collection of 2700 corms was planted plus almost 10,000 annuals. Spruces, oaks, lilacs and other trees and shrubs enhanced the outdoor plantings while 142 varieties of orchids, 54 varieties of bromeliads and 200 miscellaneous varieties were added to the greenhouse and conservatory collections.

"Dr. Green" became chief diagnostician at the House Plant Clinic where twice weekly remedies are prescribed for plant ailments either at the office or by telephone. Members of the greenhouse and library staffs originated this popular idea.

More than 230,000 visitors passed through the turnstiles during 1974 with hundreds attending such events as the annual plant sale, rose symposiums, gladiolus and bulb auctions, art exhibits, lectures, meetings, or as visitors on Greystone Tours.

Whether sniffing the refreshing fragrance of pineapple mint, quietly listening to the rattle of an earpod or concocting imaginative delicacies from lowly cocoa beans, children from 8 to 88 have found that a guided tour of the conservatory is undoubtedly the shortest distance between two points – mile high Denver and tropical jungles.

Since the guide program was initiated by Associates in January 1966, tours have been scheduled regularly by Denver and Jefferson county schools and by other public and private schools and colleges throughout Colorado and neighboring states. Convention guests, garden and civic clubs, youth and church organizations have been escorted by competent guides. In fact, before the energy crisis more than 18,000 persons were booked on 536 tours during a peak season.

Training guides and scheduling them for tours has become a complex volunteer program. By the end of the first year Mrs. Hayward was busily writing most of the first *Conservatory Plant Guide*, teaching some of the orientation classes, booking and guiding tours in cooperation with the Director and the Conservatory Superintendent. Dr. Zeiner was teaching basic botany and plant taxonomy. Soon Syd Glick (Mrs. H.S.) took over the scheduling of guides and the new education specialist booked tours.

About four years ago a nominal fee system was instituted for the eight-week training course. Under this program greater achievements have been possible. Two series of classes are given each year. About 50 volunteers serve regularly. Mrs. Hayward has been named an Honorary Life Member for her dedication.

The Children's Garden program was in its 16th year in 1975, and with food costs spiraling everywhere, the Gardens also participated in a number of projects for junior and senior citizens in other parts of the city. A project at Barrett School at 29th and Jackson Streets was a tribute to Dr. Hildreth, who strongly felt children should experience the pleasure of growing plants. Jerrie Layden (Mrs. James), one of the first volunteer instructors under Chairman John Durrance, soon became chairman of the Children's Garden Committee, a post she has retained. About 35 adults volunteer here while 15 volunteer at Barrett.

General classes scheduled by Education Specialist Margaret Sikes have grown to nearly 50. Enrollment totals approximately 1500. Many classes are free, others have a modest fee.

For the past decade wildflower field trips, led by Dr. Brunquist of the Denver Museum of Natural History, have been twice monthly adventures. Naturalists, either newcomers or natives, have shared delightful experiences in ecology, plant evolution and nature photography.

This Silver Anniversary story of Denver Botanic Gardens is actually a collection of many histories, all integral segments of the whole – the story of Denver Botanic Gardens. Much was told in the first yellowed pages of *The Green Thumb*, Vol. I No. 1, February 1944 and continued to be revealed in the 32 volumes published since: first as the voice of CF&HA, later as a record of progress of the Denver Botanic Gardens. Since November 1960 *The Green Thumb* has been the official publication of Denver Botanic Gardens.

Mr. Kelly served both the magazine and CF&HA their first dozen years. At his request in 1964 an editorial committee was formed to assist in obtaining contributions: topics, authors and artists. The magazine, conceived as an educational agency in promoting horticulture in this region, has signified continuity between both organizations.

With Mr. Pesman as first chairman, the Green Thumb Editorial Committee has functioned with varying degrees of responsibility and has, in effect, been the stabilizing factor in the life of the magazine. Its members have accepted the obligation that the magazine must go to press, with or without an editor. In fact, for some, this silver anniversary is their silver anniversary as volunteers.

Here in Colorado where horticulture is different the magazine has been an effective educational device. Most of the material in Mr. Kelly's first book, *Rocky Mountain Horticulture Is Different*, had been written by him for the magazine.

Valuable horticultural and historical information has been dispensed through *The Green Thumb*. A survey of lilacs successful in this area appeared in an early issue. Recommendations for growing fruit and vegetables, best evergreens, plant hardiness charts, insect controls, native plants for cultivation – an endless array of cultural information has been preserved. Special issues were devoted to iris conventions in 1963 and 1967; the American Rose Society was spotlighted; cacti, gesneriads, bromeliads, and many other specialized plant groups have been featured.

Training guides. *Is This?* by Mrs. Barbour and Earl Sinnamon, with drawings by Mr. Pesman, was the first booklet published by Denver Botanic Gardens. Originally this simple key for tree identification was published by the City Forestry Department. Mrs. Barbour financed the booklet with proceeds designated for the library.

The first *Conservatory Plant Guide* was published as an issue of *The Green Thumb* in 1966. Offered for sale as a self-guiding tour it was revised in 1967. In 1971 an entirely new *Conservatory Plant Guide* was published with Mrs. Hayward, editor, and her husband Phil responsible for graphic design. Dr. Hildreth, Dr. Zeiner and Bernice "Pete" Petersen (Mrs. J. V.) were assistants.

*Meet the Natives*, by Mr. Pesman, published in cooperation with the Denver Museum of Natural History in 1942, became a publication of Denver Botanic Gardens in 1968. Revisions of the seventh edition were made by Drs. Hildreth, Zeiner and Shubert. The 1975 printing was the responsibility of the editorial committee.

*Plants, Parks and People*, a tribute to S. R. DeBoer, was published in 1972. Mrs. Novitt spent countless months interviewing Mr. DeBoer and transcribing the material. Wes Woodward put the story together – 80 pages of history within a single cover.

The story behind the Chatfield Arboretum Site was revealed in Summer 1973 *Green Thumb*. Again Mr. Woodward was the historian.

Since 1972 the Denver Botanic Gardens Annual Report has been separated from the magazine but remains the responsibility of the editor.

After Mr. Oppe's departure in 1965 the *Green Thumb Newsletter* became the province of the Editorial Committee. For 50 issues, including a special Storm Issue in 1969, William H. Lucking and Mrs. "Pete" Petersen prepared the Garden Tips. Since
1970 Dr. James Feucht has contributed this valuable horticultural information. Miss Margaret Sikes, education specialist, has been the editor from 1972 on.

Artists have been equally important as authors for the publications of Denver Botanic Gardens. Often their contributions combine both talents. Fun with Gourds, written and illustrated by Pauline Roberts Steele, appeared in 1952. Her scientifically accurate drawings as well as her lively cartoons have given dozens of issues the right touch. Phil Hayward, a professional artist, has modestly provided covers and illustrations as a volunteer. His first cover appeared in 1950 and since 1967 his artistic drawings, scientific in detail, have illustrated articles written by his wife, Peg. Other regular artists include Mrs. Suzanne Ash, Mrs. Bloustein and Dr. Janet Wingate (Mrs. Hugh).

Tying all these issues of The Green Thumb into a neat system of topics and authors, readily available for careful study, has been the work of additional volunteers. An 11-year index of the magazine was published in 1954 with an index appearing annually thereafter. In 1969, on the 25th anniversary of the magazine, Miss Crissey, Mrs. Ash and Mrs. Nilsen volunteered to prepare a 25-year index. Library volunteers have willingly kept the index current, a valuable addition to the many services available in the Helen Fowler Library.

Assuredly these articles in The Green Thumb have been vital sources for this chronicle published on the Silver Anniversary of Denver Botanic Gardens.

References


The Green Thumb magazines, 1944 to 1975 inc.

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DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS, INC.  
909 York Street  
Denver, Colorado

FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 1975

ASSETS

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TOTAL

Accountant's Opinion

I have examined the balance sheet of the Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc. as of December 31, 1975. The examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as were considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, the accompanying balance sheet presents fairly the financial position of the Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc. at December 31, 1975.

J. D. Vander Ploeg  
Certified Public Accountant
MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial contributions have been received during 1975 for the following persons whose names have been inscribed in the Denver Botanic Gardens Book of Memories.

Mr. Cyrus Allen
Annie Birkenmayer
Esther Brunquist
Frieda Calhoun
Mr. Brown Cannon
Mrs. Adolph Coors III
Mr. Frederick E. Dickerson
Mr. George Fukuma
Mr. Lawrence Hackstaff
Dr. A. C. Hildreth
Mary E. Jacobson

Mr. Ivan B. Kline
Mr. Ralph Mayo, Sr.
Margaret McLister
Mr. John G. McMurtry
Mr. Charles Ransom
Mr. Ralph Sargeant, Jr.
Mr. Roland Sheldon
Lucy Steinhauer
Mrs. Glen H. Stephens
Mrs. Charles Wangnild
Mr. Britton White

THE VOLUNTEERS

Their organizations and committees.

ASSOCIATES OF DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

Mrs. H. S. Glick ............................................................... President, 1975-1976
Mrs. L. A. Waterman, Jr. ................................................... Conservatory Guides Scheduling Chairman, 1974-1975
Mrs. R. W. Hanselman ...................................................... Conservatory Guides Scheduling Chairman, 1975-1976
Mrs. Mary Secrest ............................................................ Gift Shop Committee Chairman
Mrs. Wm. M. Fallon, III ..................................................... Hostess and Information Chairman 1974-1975
Mrs. James C. Syner .......................................................... Hostess and Information Chairman 1975-1976
Mrs. William B. Collister ................................................ Training Program Chairman, 1974-1976

AROUND THE SEASONS CLUB

Mrs. Doris Evans ............................................................. President, 1974-1975
Mrs. D. L. Christenson ...................................................... President, 1975-1976

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS GUILD

Mrs. C. J. Nicoulin ............................................................ President, 1974-1975
Mrs. T. W. Wrenn, Jr. ....................................................... President, 1975-1976
Mrs. Loring Brock .......................................................... Terrace & Garden Tour Chairman, 1976

GARDEN CLUB OF DENVER

Mrs. Richard A. Kirk ......................................................... President, 1974-1976
DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS
STANDING COMMITTEES
1975

CHATFIELD COMMITTEE
Mr. Edward P. Connors, Chairman
Mr. John Bermingham
Mr. Herbert I. Jones
Mr. Harry B. Kusel
Dr. Moras L. Shubert
Mr. Con Tolman
Miss Exie White
Mr. Rudy Woodruff
Mr. Glenn Park, Ex-Officio
Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr., Ex-Officio
Mr. John C. Mitchell, Ex-Officio

Children's Garden Committee
Mrs. James Layden, Chairman
Mrs. Julia Andrews-Jones
Dr. John R. Durrance
Mr. Richard Hannigan
Mrs. Lorena Sney
Mrs. James Thompson
Mrs. James J. Waring
Bevery Nilsen, Ex-Officio

Children's Garden Extension
Mr. Harry B. Kusel, Chairman
Mr. Anthony J. Makowski, Principal,
Barrett Elementary School
Mr. Orville K. Jacobs, Barrett
Elementary School
Parent Representative from Park Hill
District, to be selected
Bevery Nilsen, Ex-Officio
Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr., Ex-Officio

Development and Public Relations Committee
Mrs. John Brooks, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Walter B. Ash
Mrs. Donald C. Campbell
Mr. George M. Canon
Mrs. John F. Falkenberg
Mrs. Richard W. Hanselman
Mrs. Richard A. Kirk
Mr. Alexander L. Kirkpatrick
Mrs. Norman F. Patrick
Mrs. J. V. Petersen
Mrs. Howard Rea
Mrs. William Stanley
Mr. Glenn Park, Ex-Officio
Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr., Ex-Officio

Editorial Committee
Mrs. J. V. Petersen, Chairman
Mrs. Julia Andrews-Jones
Mrs. Walter B. Ash
Mrs. Paul A. Bloustein
Mrs. William H. Crisp
Mrs. George H. Garrey
Mrs. Philip Hayward
Mrs. Robert M. Kosanke
Dr. Moras L. Shubert
Mrs. J. P. Steele, Jr.
Dr. Hugh Wingate
Dr. Janet C. Wingate
Dr. Helen M. Zeiner
Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr., Ex-Officio
Miss Margaret Sikes, Ex-Officio
Ms. Solange Huggins, Ex-Officio

Education Committee
Dr. Moras L. Shubert, Chairman
(UNIV. OF DENVER)
Dr. James R. Feucht (C.S.U.
Horticultural Extension Service)
Mrs. Phil Hayward
Mr. Kenneth J. Mills (DENVER
Public Schools)
Mr. James O'Shea (Community College of
DENVER, NORTH CAMPUS)
Mrs. William A. Steele (Metropolitan
State College)
Mr. James Trammel (Arapahoe Community
College)
Miss Margaret Sikes, Ex-Officio
Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr., Ex-Officio

Finance Committee
Mr. Alexander L. Kirkpatrick, Chairman
Mr. O. Ben Haley, Jr.
Mr. Richard A. Kirk
Mr. Lawrence A. Long
Mr. John C. Mitchell

Herbarium Committee
Dr. Helen M. Zeiner, Chairman
Mrs. Walter B. Ash
Dr. E. H. Brunquist
Mrs. Page Edwards
Mrs. Calvin Fisher
Mrs. Howard Rea
Mrs. Marjorie Shepherd
Dr. Janet C. Wingate
Mrs. Leslie P. Witte
Mrs. F. Richard Yeatts
Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr., Ex-Officio

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Mr. Kenneth G. Wilmore, Chairman
Dr. Alfred J. Bromfield
Dr. John R. Durrance
Mr. Harley G. Highbie, Jr.
Mr. John C. Mitchell
Mrs. Willett S. Moore
Mr. Chris G. Moritz
Mrs. Jane Silverstein Ries
Dr. Moras L. Shubert
Mr. Harry Swift
Mr. Larry Watson
Bevery Nilsen, Ex-Officio
Glenn Park, Ex-Officio
Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr., Ex-Officio

House Committee
Mrs. Harley G. Highbie, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. George M. Canon
Mrs. E. H. Honnren
Mrs. George H. Garrey
Mrs. Richard A. Kirk
Mrs. James J. Waring
Miss Ruth Hawkins, Ex-Officio
Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr., Ex-Officio

Library Committee
Miss Rachael Hauck, Chairman
Miss Lucy M. Crissey
Miss Geneva Eldridge
Mrs. John F. Falkenberg
Mrs. Bruce Jackson
Ms. Peg Milroy
Mr. Henry J. Shearouse
Mrs. James White
Ms. Solange Huggins, Ex-Officio
Dr. William G. Gambill, Jr., Ex-Officio
Lobby Court Committee
Mrs. Donald C. Campbell, Chairman
Mr. George M. Canon
Mrs. Frank B. Freyer, II

Nominating Committee
Mr. Richard A. Kirk, Chairman
Mr. Charles C. Nicola
Mr. James C. Owen, Jr.

Planning Committee
Mr. Harley G. Higbie, Jr., Chairman
Mr. Edward P. Connors
Dr. John R. Durrance
Mr. John C. Mitchell

Plant Sale Committee
Mrs. John F. Falkenberg, Chairman
Mr. Edward P. Connors
Mrs. Phil Hayward
Mrs. William C. Jackson, Jr.
Mrs. Graham B. Morrison

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Mr. O. Ben Haley, Jr.

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